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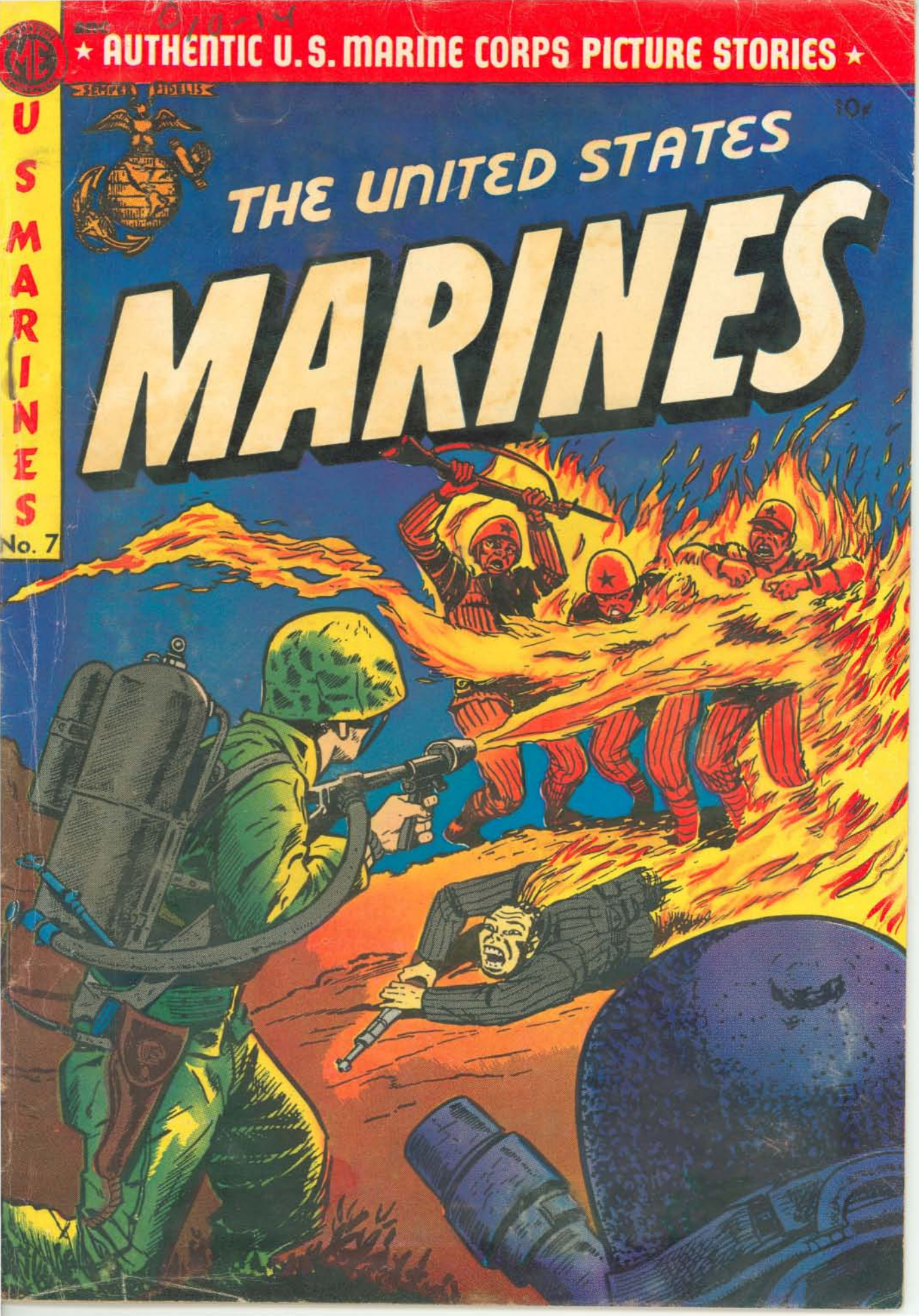
U.S. MARINES No. 7

10¢

# THE UNITED STATES MARINES



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## All Wrestling Personalities Parade
## *"Before Your Very Eyes"*

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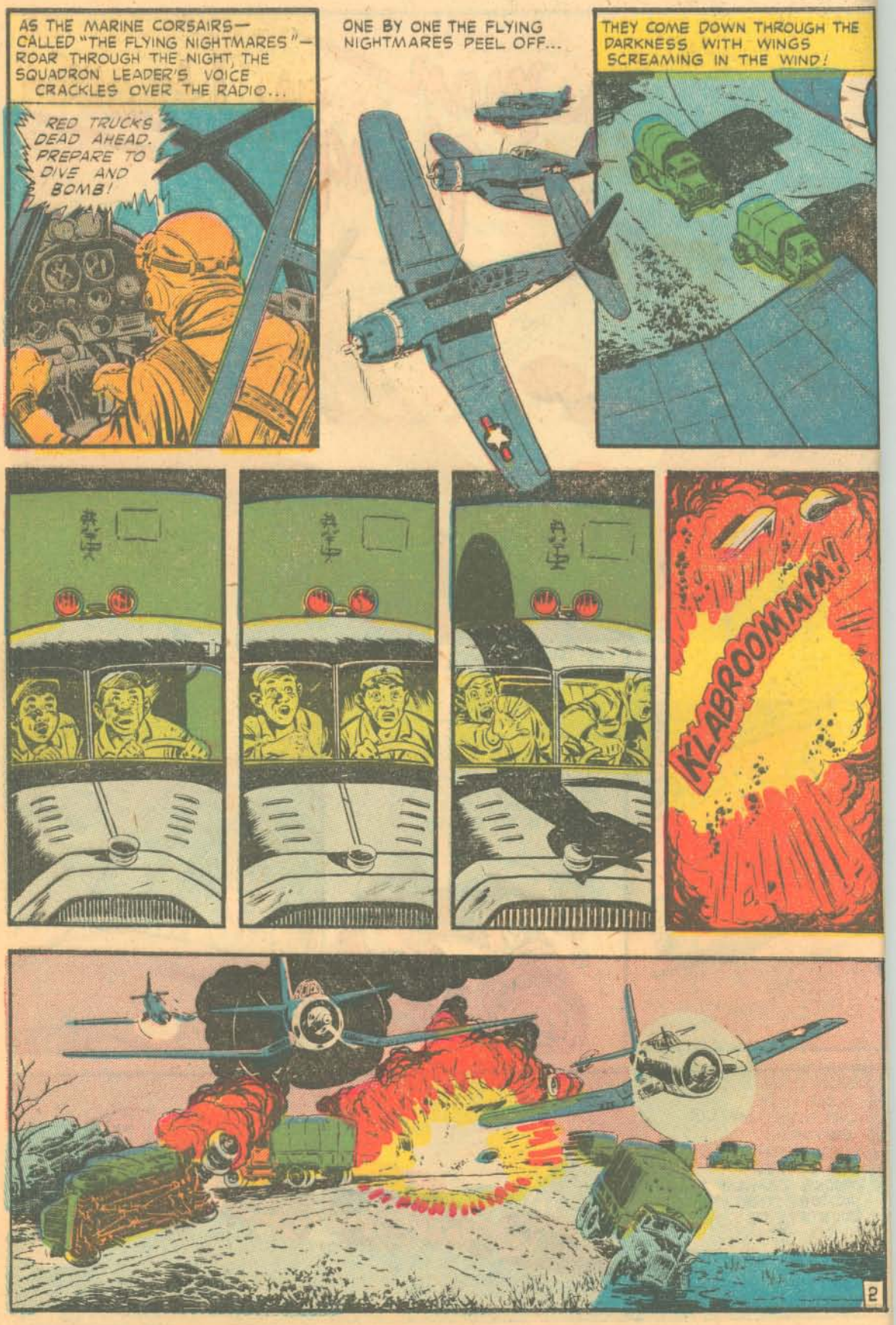
HE FLEW A NIGHT FIGHTER-BOMBER FOR THE FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING. HE TOOK HIS PLANE UP AMONG THE STARS AND SOUGHT AND DESTROYED THE ENEMY. TO THE MEN ON THE GROUND, HE WAS—

# the Man in the Flying Nightmare

Powell


AS THE MARINE CORSAIRS— CALLED "THE FLYING NIGHTMARES"— ROAR THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE SQUADRON LEADER'S VOICE CRACKLES OVER THE RADIO...
RED TRUCKS DEAD AHEAD. PREPARE TO DIVE AND BOMB!
ONE BY ONE THE FLYING NIGHTMARES PEEL OFF...
THEY COME DOWN THROUGH THE DARKNESS WITH WINGS SCREAMING IN THE WIND!
KLABOOMMMM!
2

A PILOT SWOOPS LOW OVER THE TRUCKS—

JUST TO MAKE SURE, I'LL DUMP SOME FRAGMENTATION BOMBS, AND FOLLOW 'EM UP WITH SOME FLARES!

THE BRIGHTLY BURNING FLARES REVEALS THE TRUCKS PULLED OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD —BUT ALSO REVEALS THE LOW-FLYING CORSAIR TO A FLIGHT OF RUSSIAN-BUILT MIGS!

THE MIGS DIVE DOWN FOR THE KILL!

ENEMY PLANE BELOW! DESTROY IT!

BUT AT THIS MOMENT, LIEUTENANT JACKSON GUNS HIS FLYING NIGHTMARE DOWN ON THE TAILS OF THE DIVING MIGS!

GOT TO GET THEM OFF BILLY'S NECK!

I DREW 'EM OFF HIM—BUT NOW I'VE GOT THEM CHASING **ME!**

BUT LT. BILLY MADDEN HAS NOT GONE FAR. AND HIS RADIO MESSAGE BRINGS A FLIGHT OF CORSAIRS THAT DRIVES THE MIGS BACK ACROSS THE YALU...
NEXT NIGHT, LT. JACKSON IS FLYING SOLO WHEN A CONTROL BEGINS TALKING TO HIM —
FLARE PLANE TWO! FLARE PLANE TWO! RED ADVANCE COLUMN MOVING THROUGH THE WOODS! WE NEED HELP!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE 'EM! I'LL GUIDE YOU IN! COME ON!
TWO FLARES DROP DOWNWARD—
THE RESULTANT BRIGHTNESS LIGH UP THE WOODS LIKE THE SUN!
HERE GO MY BOMBS!
BOOM
BLAM
VA RRO OOOM

ATTABOY! YOU'RE DEAD ON TARGET! COME ON IN WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

NAPALM BOMBS FALL, TO BURST INTO SEARING FLAMES IN THE KOREAN FOREST...

AT BLINDING SPEED, LIEUTENANT JACKSON HURLS HIS FLYING NIGHTMARE FORWARD. HIS 20-MM CANNONS BELCH—
BRAM
BRAMM
BMM
BLAM
BAM
BLAM

HIS JOB WELL DONE, LIEUTENANT JACKSON TURNS HIS CORSAIR HOMEWARD—

IN HIS EARS RING THE GRATEFUL VOICES OF THE MEN HIS PROMPT ACTION HAD SAVED...
YOU GOT 'EM ALL! NICE WORK, FELLA!
HEY, BUDDY— WAKE UP!

YOU SLEPT THROUGH ALL THE FUN! HEY, WAKE UP! YOU BEEN YELLIN' SOMETHIN' AWFUL!
I JUST HAD A NIGHT-MARE!

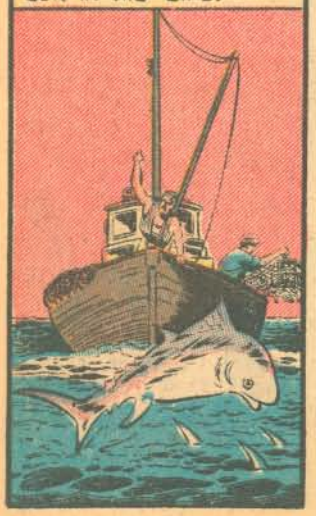
BUT IT WAS A NICE KIND OF A NIGHTMARE — A FLYING NIGHTMARE! AND I'M SURE GLAD IT WAS FIGHTING ON MY SIDE!
THE END

# MARINE BOOT CAMP

THEY COME FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES TO BE MADE INTO FIGHTING MEN. THEY COME FROM SHOPS AND FACTORIES, FARMS AND FISHING BOATS, BUT WHEN THEIR TRAINING IS DONE, THEY ARE PART OF ONE OF THE FINEST GROUPS OF FIGHTING MEN IN THE WORLD. THEY HAVE BEEN THROUGH—

COME ON, YOU BOOT! SHOW SOME LIFE! THOSE DUMMIES ARE ENEMIES— SO TREAT 'EM THAT WAY.

JOHNNY JORDAN IS A FISHERMAN. HE KNOWS BOATS AND TIDES. HE HAS NEVER HANDLED A GUN IN HIS LIFE.



ONE DAY A LETTER COMES TO JOHNNY. IT IS HIS INDUCTION NOTICE INTO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES...

GUESS I'LL BE WEARING KHAKI INSTEAD OF BOOTS, FROM NOW ON!

HAVING PASSED HIS PHYSICAL EXAM, HE IS TAKEN INTO THE MARINE CORPS...

WITH OTHER TRAINEES, HE ARRIVES AT THE MARINE BOOT CAMP AT PARRIS ISLAND, N.C...

HIS CIVILIAN CLOTHES ARE TAKEN AWAY. IN THEIR PLACE, HE IS ISSUED A SEA BAG AND UTILITY CLOTHING...
JOHNNY JORDAN GOES UNDER THE ELECTRIC CLIPPERS TO HAVE HIS HEAD SHAVED...
HE IS TAKEN TO THE DRILL FIELD WHERE HE LEARNS TO MARCH AND TURN...
SOUND OFF! SOUND OFF!
RIFLE INSTRUCTION FOLLOWS...
PAY ATTENTION TO THIS! YOUR LIFE-AND THE LIVES OF YOUR BUDDIES-WILL DEPEND ON HOW WELL YOU HANDLE YOUR WEAPONS!
TARGET PRACTICE UNDER THE BROILING SUN GOES ON, DAY AFTER DAY...
TOUGH DRILL SERGEANTS HARRY THEIR CHARGES ENDLESSLY...
SNAP IT UP! KEEP RUNNING! DON'T GET LAZY!
PUNISHMENTS FOR MINOR INFRACTIONS ARE ON THE HUMILIATING SIDE JOHNNY JORDAN IS CAUGHT TALKING IN THE RANKS
TRY TALKING WITH THAT BETWEEN YOUR TEETH!

THE MARINE TRAINING COURSE LASTS EIGHT WEEKS. THERE ARE LONG MARCHES...
JOHNNY JORDAN TAKES HIS TURN WITH THE OTHERS IN THE BAYONET PITS—
GET SOME MUSCLE BEHIND YOUR STEEL, BOOT!
THERE IS TRAINING IN A TEAR GAS CHAMBER—WHERE THE MARINE BOOTS MUST SING THE MARINE HYMN — WITH MASKS OFF!
THERE ARE SOME WHO CANNOT MAKE THE GRADE—
—BUT THOSE WHO REMAIN TO COMPLETE THEIR TRAINING EMERGE AS FULL-FLEDGED SOLDIERS
SEMPER FIDELIS
BEHIND THEM ARE THE MEMORIES OF TRIPOLI AND OKINAWA, AHEAD ARE THE TRADITIONS WHICH THEY THEMSELVES WILL BUILD!

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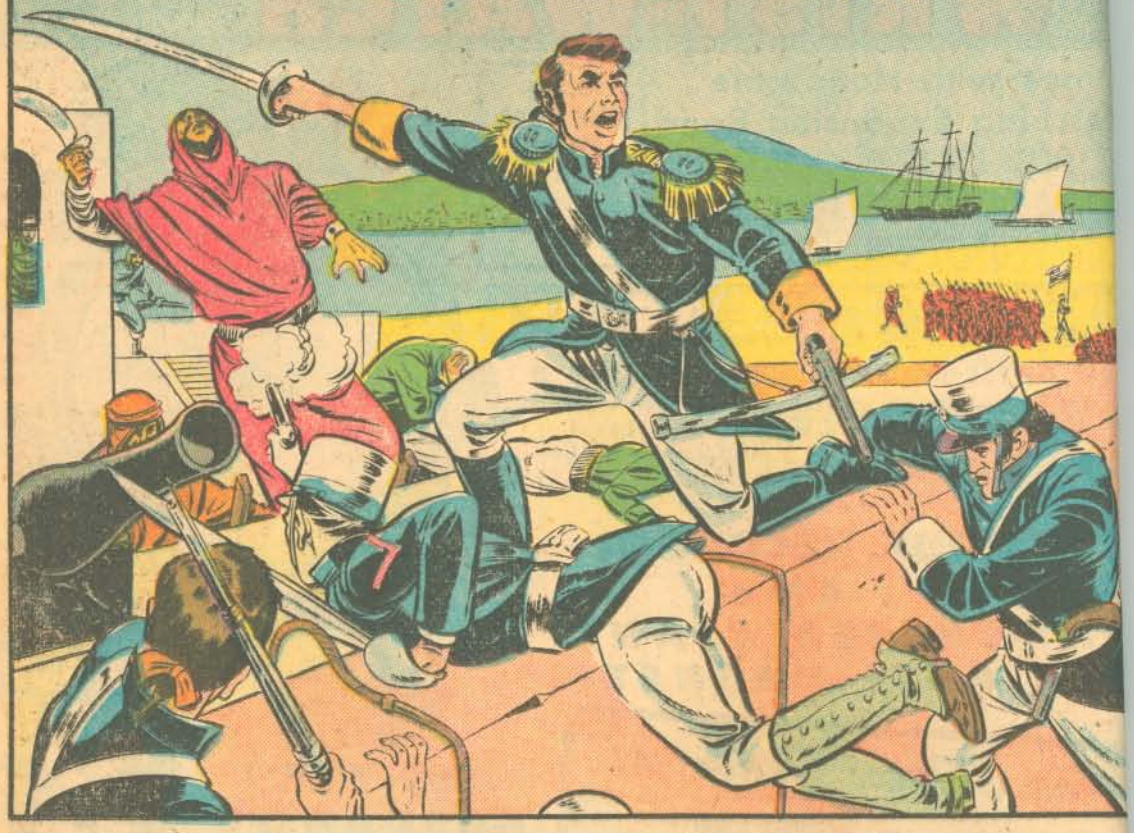
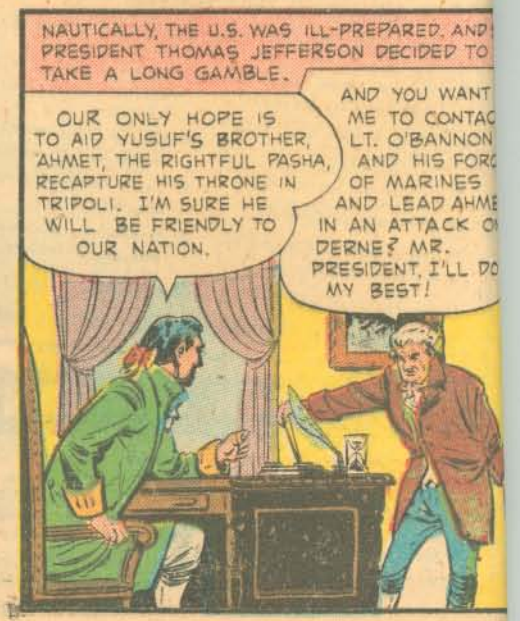
IN 1804, THE UNITED STATES WAS STILL IN ITS INFANCY. BUT LIEUTENANT PRESLEY N. O'BANNON, USMC, WITH A DETAIL OF ONE SERGEANT AND SIX PRIVATES, CAPTURED A CITY, DEFEATED A NATION, AND WON A WAR ON...

# THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI!





BUT LATER, IN A HOTEL IN CAIRO...
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP, LT. O'BANNON! I'M SUPPOSED TO PUT AHMET PASHA ON HIS THRONE ... AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS!
THE WORD IS THAT HE'S HIDING IN LOWER EGYPT. WITH A FEW PIASTRES I COULD ASSIGN SOME OF MY MEN TO VISIT SOME OF THE LOCAL DENS AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE!

EXCELLENT IDEA, LIEUTENANT! BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR TROOPS YET!
YOU SHALL DIRECTLY! THEY'RE RIGHT BELOW!

TENNNNHUTTT!
THERE THEY ARE, MR. EATON! AND A FINER BODY OF MEN YOU'VE NEVER SEEN!

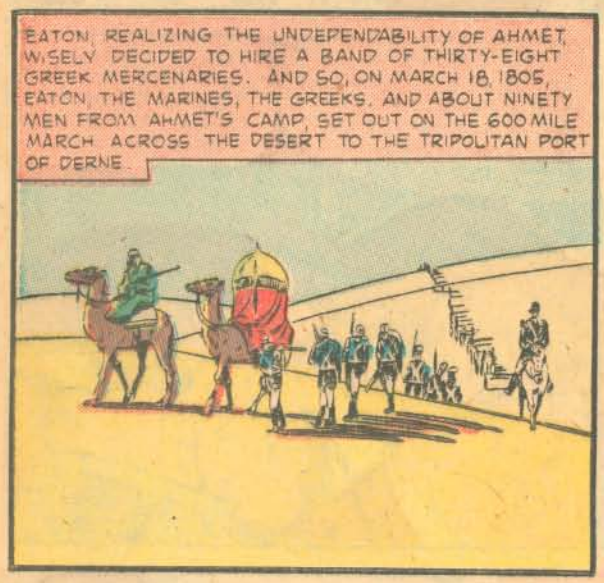
DON'T TELL ME THIS IS YOUR ENTIRE FORCE, O'BANNON! WE HAVE A WAR TO FIGHT AGAINST A POWERFUL ENEMY, AND YOU SHOW UP WITH SEVEN MEN!
SEVEN MARINES, MISTER EATON! ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT, I'D SAY, TO A REGIMENT OF SOLDIERS!

IF EATON THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WOULD BE OVER WHEN HE FOUND AHMET, HE WAS TO BE A VERY SURPRISED MAN, FOR...
BUT GENTLEMEN, MY BROTHER WOULD BE VERY ANGRY IF HE DISCOVERED I WAS TRYING TO RETURN TO MY THRONE ... AND MY BROTHER IS TERRIBLE INDEED WHEN AROUSED!
BUT THE THRONE IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS, GOOD PASHA! BESIDES, YOUR BROTHER WILL FLEE AT THE APPROACH FOR YOUR STAUNCH FORCES WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS!

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS! WELL, GENTLEMEN, THIS CHANGES THE...
2

THIS IS THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS?!
SEVEN GOOD MEN AND TRUE, EACH ONE CAPABLE OF PUTTING A MUSKET BALL THROUGH THE FAT PASHA AT 150 YARDS! ARE YOU WITH US?

WHEN DO WE START FOR DERNE, GENTLEMEN?


EATON, REALIZING THE UNDEPENDABILITY OF AHMET, WISELY DECIDED TO HIRE A BAND OF THIRTY-EIGHT GREEK MERCENARIES. AND SO, ON MARCH 18, 1805, EATON, THE MARINES, THE GREEKS, AND ABOUT NINETY MEN FROM AHMET'S CAMP, SET OUT ON THE 600 MILE MARCH ACROSS THE DESERT TO THE TRIPOLITAN PORT OF DERNE.

AFTER THE FIRST HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES...
GENTLEMEN, YOU HAVE PICKED THE WARMEST TIME OF THE YEAR. PERHAPS WE'D BETTER TURN BACK UNTIL THE COOLER WEATHER SETS IN.
YOU'LL BE GOING TO A MUCH HOTTE SPOT IF YOU DON'T MOVE OUT, MATE!

...THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES...
SEIZE THE INFIDELS! WE CANNOT GO ON! SEIZE THEM I SAY!
THE FIRST ONE O' YOU DESERT RATS THAT TAKES A STEP DIES! NOW TURN THOSE HORSES AROUND AND RIDE!

FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES...
MY SCOUTS HAVE BEEN OUT AND REPORT THAT A LARGE BAND OF REINFORCEMENTS ARE JOINING MY BROTHER'S TROOPS AT DERNE! I IMPLORE YOU, MR. EATON, NOT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS FANTASTIC SCHEME! WE SHALL ALL DIE AT THE END OF MY BROTHER'S SCIMITAR!

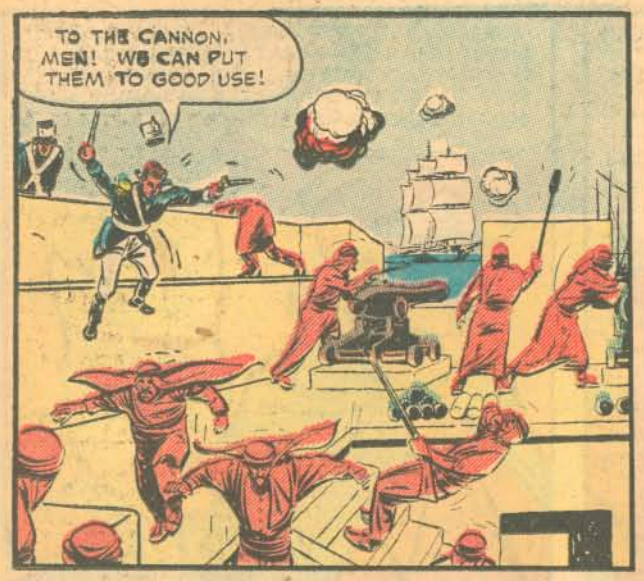
AT LAST, ON THE FIFTY-FIRST DAY OF THE GRUELING MARCH...
DERNE! OUR BELOVED CITY!
THAT'S IT, ALL RIGHT! I'VE HAD SCOUTS OF MY OWN OUT, AND THEY CONFIRM AHMET'S REPORTS THAT YUSUF HAS REINFORCEMENTS ON THE WAY. I THINK WE'D BETTER ATTACK BEFORE THEY GET HERE!

AGREED! BUT FIRST WE SHOULD PLAN SOME SORT OF STRATEGY. AFTER ALL, THEY HAVE EIGHT HUNDRED MEN IN THERE, AND WE...
EIGHT HUNDRED MEN! I WAS HOPING WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO... BUT, I GUESS WE'LL BRING THE GREEKS ALONG JUST IN CASE!

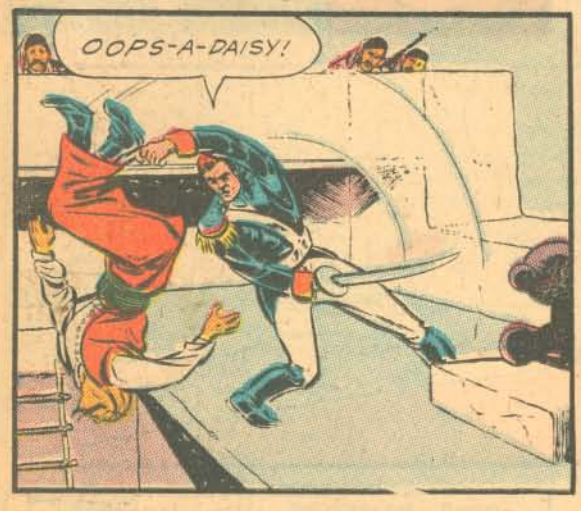
THE STRATEGY WAS FOR AHMET AND THE ARABS TO ATTACK FROM THE SOUTHWEST WHILE O'BANNON AND THE GREEKS TOOK ON THE MAIN FORCES ON THE SOUTHEAST. HOWEVER, AHMET'S HALF-HEARTED ATTACK WAS A MISERABLE FAILURE, AND THE GREEKS SEEMED NONE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC. AND WHEN THINGS LOOKED BLACKEST...
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT'S THE NAVY! THEY'RE BOMBARDING THE HARBOR!
BOOM
BOOM

EVEN AS FAR BACK AS 1804, THAT WORD HAD AN ELECTRIFYING EFFECT ON ALL MARINES. IN AN INSTANT...
LET'S GO!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MEN? THE NAVY IS OUT THERE TRYIN' TO STEAL OUR WAR FROM US! ARE WE GONNA LET THEM DO IT???

DON'T BOTHER ME WITH THAT CHEESECUTTER — I'VE GOT SOMEPLACE TO GO!

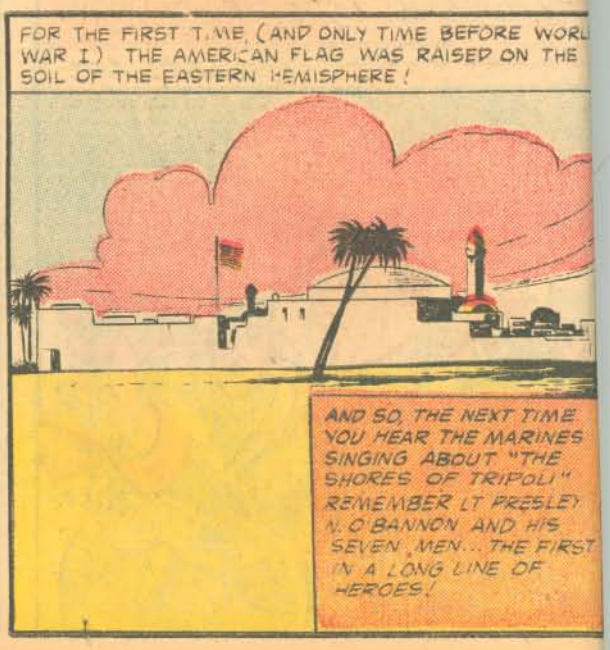

TO THE CANNON, MEN! WE CAN PUT THEM TO GOOD USE!

I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR TASK, BUT I NEED THIS THING MORE THAN YOU DO, ALI BABA!


OOPS-A-DAISY!

ANOTHER STEP AND I'LL BLOW YOU ALL BACK TO MECCA!

IN WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE MOST DARING ASSAULTS IN ALL THE HISTORY OF WARFARE, THE MARINES CARRIED THE DAY! YUSUF'S FORCES BEAT A HASTY RETREAT FROM THE CITY AND...
RAISE THE FLAG, BOYS, AND FEEL AT HOME! YOU'RE STANDING ON AMERICAN TERRITORY!


FOR THE FIRST TIME, (AND ONLY TIME BEFORE WORLD WAR I) THE AMERICAN FLAG WAS RAISED ON THE SOIL OF THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE!
AND SO, THE NEXT TIME YOU HEAR THE MARINES SINGING ABOUT "THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI" REMEMBER LT PRESLEY N. O'BANNON AND HIS SEVEN MEN... THE FIRST IN A LONG LINE OF HEROES!

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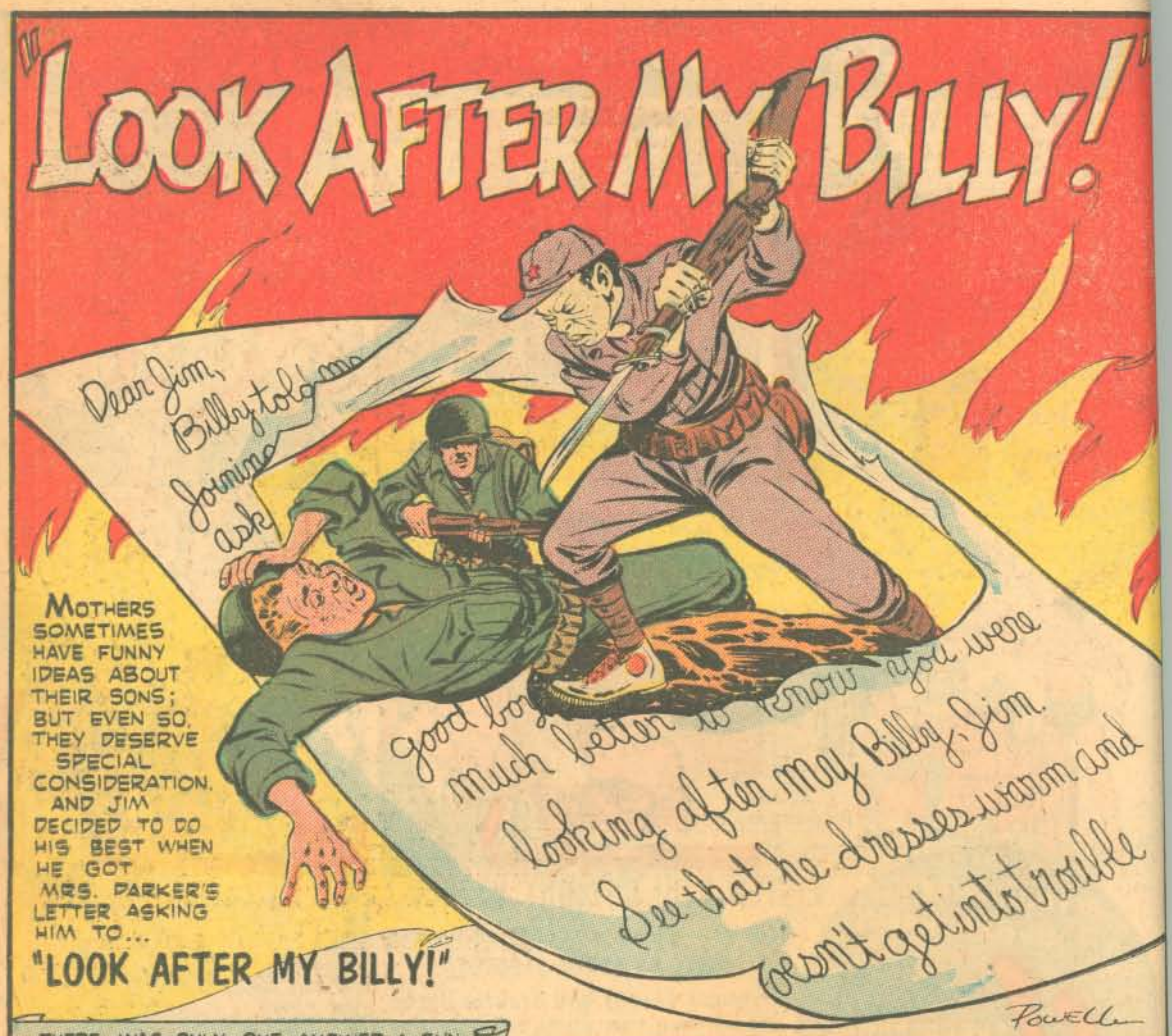
# "LOOK AFTER MY BILLY!"




MOTHERS SOMETIMES HAVE FUNNY IDEAS ABOUT THEIR SONS; BUT EVEN SO, THEY DESERVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. AND JIM DECIDED TO DO HIS BEST WHEN HE GOT MRS. PARKER'S LETTER ASKING HIM TO...

**"LOOK AFTER MY BILLY!"**

THERE WAS ONLY ONE ANSWER A GUY COULD GIVE TO AN APPEAL LIKE THAT. NEVERTHELESS, JIM SAT DOWN TO PUT IT INTO WORDS. SUDDENLY...

MY MOTHER WROTE TO YOU? NOW LOOK, JIM, LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT... IF MY MOTHER ASKED YOU TO PLAY NURSE-MAID TO ME, I'M NOT BUYING ANY OF IT, UNDERSTAND?

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF AND I DON'T NEED ANY LACY-PANTS LIKE YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO!
SURE, BILLY, SURE! I KNOW HOW MOTHERS ARE. BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED OR...

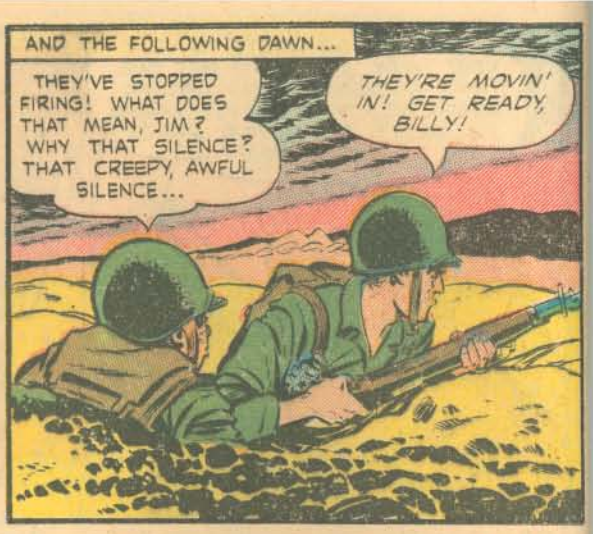
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I NEED, I'LL TAKE IT! NOW TELL ME WHERE THE NEAREST CRAP GAME IS AND YOU CAN TAKE THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF!

LOOKING AFTER BILLY WAS NOT THE EASIEST TASK IN THE WORLD, BUT JIM HAD PROMISED AND SO...
LET ME AT HIM! HE CAN'T ACCUSE *ME* OF CHEATING!
TAKE IT EASY, BILLY. THE BEST YOU CAN GET IS A COURT-MARTIAL FOR FIGHTING ON THE BASE... AND YOU *WERE* CHEATING! EVEN I SAW THAT!

EVEN AS THE OUTFIT MOVED UP TOWARD THE FORWARD AREA...
IF THAT GUY MENTIONS *ONE MORE TIME* ABOUT WHAT A TOUGH FOOTBALL-PLAYER HE WAS, I'M GONNA SLUG HIM!
TAKE IT EASY, PETE! HE'S ONLY A *KID!*

IT WAS QUIET THE FIRST FEW DAYS IN THE FORWARD AREA...
MAKE IT PLENTY WIDE, JIM. I LIKE TO HAVE ROOM TO STRETCH MY LEGS!

THEN, AT DUSK ONE EVENING...
UH-OH! THEY'RE STEPPING UP THE ARTILLERY FIRE! I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BUSY MORNING TOMORROW!
BOOM
CRUNK
WHOO


AND THE FOLLOWING DAWN...
THEY'VE STOPPED FIRING! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, JIM? WHY THAT SILENCE? THAT CREEPY, AWFUL SILENCE...
THEY'RE MOVIN' IN! GET READY, BILLY!

HERE THEY COME!
CRACK

BLAM
BAM
WUNK
BOOM

THE FOLLOWING SECONDS WERE A FEVER OF FRENZIED ACTIVITY AND THEN...
WE'VE STOPPED THEM, BILLY! THEY'RE DRAWING BACK!
WE'RE DROPPIN' BACK A HUNDRED YARDS TO CONSOLIDATE! GET GOIN', JIM!

BILLY! WHERE'S BILLY! FOR PETE'S SAKE, BILLY...!
NEVER MIND HIM! GET GOING OR YOU'LL BE OUT HERE ALL BY YOURSELF!

BILLY! WHERE ARE YOU, BILLY?
I HOPE HE HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO DROP BACK!

JIM!
BILLY! WHAT'S HAPPENED ???

I'M SCARED, JIM, REALLY SCARED! THEY JUST KEEP COMIN' AND COMIN'! THEY NEVER STOP!
WE'RE ALL SCARED, BILLY! YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT! NOW COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

I'M NOT MOVIN', JIM! I CAN'T MOVE! THEY'RE LIKE AN OCEAN! WE CAN'T STOP THEM, I TELL YOU!! SO LET ME ALONE! LET ME ALONE OR I'LL KILL YOU!

LET ME...!
SMACK

I SAID LET'S GO!
YES, JIM.. ALL RIGHT, JIM! I'LL GO!

HOLD IT! HERE THEY COME!

WE'RE TRAPPED! PICK UP THAT RIFLE AND START FIRING! IT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO!
KRAK

GET HIM, BILLY!
BLAM

THAT-A-BOY, BILLY! NOW... AAAAAAAAH!

WHY, YOU DIRTY SON-OF-

LATER...
YOU'VE GOT BILLY TO THANK FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE, JIM. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER HIM, BUT HE HELD HIS POSITION OVER THREE HOURS THROUGH FOUR COMMIE CHARGES. WHEN THEY FINALLY WITHDREW THERE WERE ELEVEN BODIES LYING AROUND HIM, AND HE WAS STILL FUMING, STANDING OVER YOU LIKE A WATCHDOG!

HE'LL GET THE NAVY CROSS FOR THIS, AT LEAST. ALTHOUGH HE SAYS THAT HE WON'T EVEN TAKE IT. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT GUY!
HE'LL TAKE IT, PETE, DON'T WORRY. I THINK HE'LL DO WHAT I TELL HIM. WILL YOU TELL HIM I WANT TO SEE HIM NOW?

WHAT DO YOU SAY, HERO?
CUT IT OUT, JIM. I'M HAVING A HARD ENOUGH TIME TRYING TO PUT INTO WORDS WHAT I WANT TO TELL YOU.

YOU SEE, WHAT NO ONE KNOWS IS THAT I'M ACTUALLY A COWARD. I DIDN'T DROP BACK TO THAT SHELL HOLE UNDER ORDERS, JIM. I RAN BACK! RAN BECAUSE I WAS SCARED BECAUSE I WANTED TO DESERT... TO START RUNNING AND NEVER STOP!
I KNOW, BILLY!

YOU... YOU KNEW?
SURE. YOU WERE GONE BEFORE THE ORDERS CAME THROUGH! BUT THAT'S NOTHING. YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST GUY WHO GOT SCARED OF THOSE COMMIE ADVANCES. WHAT COUNTS IS THAT YOU CAME THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH!

WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE, YOU WEREN'T A FIRST CLASS SOLDIER BECAUSE YOU HADN'T KNOWN FEAR. NOW YOU KNOW IT... AND I THINK YOU'LL BE A DIFFERENT GUY.
JIM.. I-I- KNOW I'LL BE A DIFFERENT GUY!

LATER...
Dear Mrs. Parker, Just a line to let you know that you Billy can look after himself you need never worry f

OF COURSE, HE COULDN'T BE THE **FIRST** ENLISTED MAN IN THE MARINE CORPS AS SOME CLAIM; THE MARINE CORPS IS 177 YEARS OLD. BUT WHATEVER HIS AGE, TO THOUSANDS OF HIS "BOOTS" INCLUDING A FEW TWO-STAR GENERALS, **LOU DIAMOND** WAS...

SEMPER FIDELIS

U.S.M.C. HALL OF FAME

# "MISTER MARINE CORPS"

WHEN WORLD WAR II BROKE OUT THEY SAID LOU WAS TOO OLD TO FIGHT. BUT THAT D'DN'T PREVENT HIM FROM GOING OVERSEAS... AND ONCE HE GOT THERE, HE PROVED HIS RIGHT TO THE TITLE OF THE GREATEST MORTARMAN IN THE WORLD.
THAT'S FOURTEEN BUILDINGS YOU'VE GOT ALREADY, LOU. BET YOU CAN'T GET THE FIFTEENTH FIRST TRY!
FOR FIFTY BUCKS, YOU'RE ON! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I'LL DROP THE SHELL RIGHT DOWN THE CHIMNEY
ALL THROUGH THE RUGGED SOLOMON ISLANDS CAMPAIGN, LOU GUZZLED HUGE QUANTITIES OF BEER (WHEN AVAILABLE, AND FOR HIM, IT USUALLY WAS) AND MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN BY HIS BOOMING VOICE AND CHOICE VOCABULARY. ONE DAY...
IF THE — — WOULD ONLY COME IN CLOSER, I'D SPLIT HIM RIGHT IN TWO!
PICK UP YOUR PEA-SHOOTER AND LET'S GO, DAVID! COLONEL EDSON WANTS YOU DOWN AT MATANIKAU.
A FEW HOURS LATER...
THAT'S THE STORY, LOU. MY ADVANCE HAS BEEN HELD UP TIME AND AGAIN FOR LACK OF EFFECTIVE MORTAR FIRE. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD...
YOUR WORRIES ARE OVER, COLONEL! WHERE ARE THOSE MORTARMEN?
ALL RIGHT, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOIN, THROWIN' RICE AT A BRIDE? LEMME AT THAT WEAPON!
NOW THAT'S THE WAY TO HOLY CROW! WHAT'VE YOU GUYS BEEN EATIN' LATELY?
K-RATIONS. WHAT ELSE?
K-RATIONS??? NO WONDER YOU CAN'T FIGHT! THERE'S AN ARMY BASE NEAR HERE, AIN'T THERE? WELL, KEEP THINGS HUMMIN' TILL I GET BACK!
2

BUT IF OLD AGE DIDN'T STOP HIM, A COMBINATION OF MALARIA AND RHEUMATISM DID, AND TOWARD THE END OF THE SOLOMON ISLAND FIGHTING, LOU WAS EVACUATED TO NEW ZEALAND. HIS FIRST REQUEST ON AWAKENING IN THE HOSPITAL WAS HIS USUAL...

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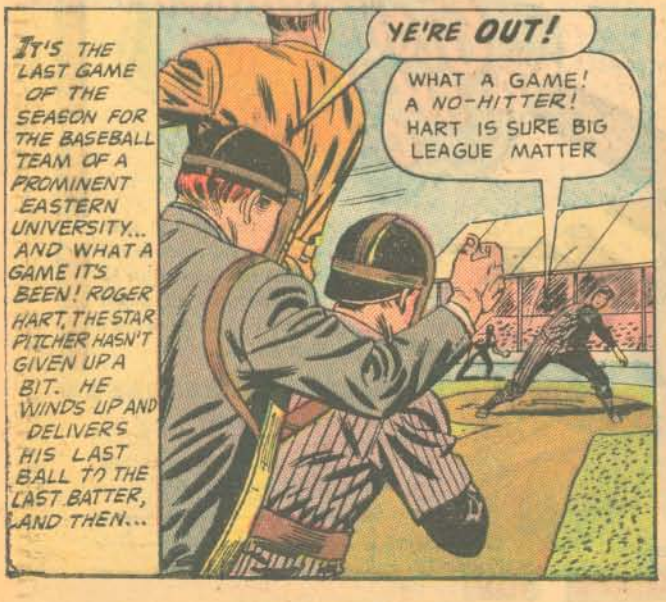
SOLDIERS SAILORS WACS WAVES MARINES PT BOATS BATTLESHIPS CRUISERS JETS BOMBERS

MACHINE GUNS BAZOOKAS RIFLEMEN JETS

TO ROGER, IT WAS ALL A LOT OF BUNK... A STUMBLING BLOCK BETWEEN HIM AND A BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL CAREER. BUT TO POP, WHO'D SPENT HIS LIFE IN THE MARINE CORPS, THERE WAS NOTHING MORE-GENUINE THAN...

# "THE SPIRIT OF SEMPER FI!"



HERE I AM ON THE BRINK OF STARDOM AND WHAT DO I GET? "REPORT FOR ACTIVE DUTY." WHY DO THEY HAVE TO PICK ME TO FIGHT THIS STUPID WAR? ISN'T IT ENOUGH I'M ON THE RESERVE?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, ROGER. IT'S A TOUGH BREAK, BUT YOU OUGHT TO BE GLAD YOU'RE GOING INTO A FINE OUTFIT LIKE THE MARINE CORPS!

FINE OUTFIT, MY EYE! MY FATHER'S BEEN IN FOR THIRTY YEARS AND WHAT DOES HE GET... A PAT ON THE BACK AND A CHANCE TO BE A TARGET FOR A COMMIE MARKSMAN! SEMPER FI!
I'M SORRY YOU LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, BOY, VERY SORRY!

SOME MONTHS LATER...
ROGER!
HYA, POP!

GOSH, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, SON! I WAS TELLING THE BOYS THAT I'D SHOW THEM A REAL MARINE, A GUY WHO HAD THE OLD FIGHTING SPIRIT LIKE HIS OLD MAN!
CUT OUT THE BALONEY, POP! I KNOW THE SCORE!

ALL I WANT TO DO IS GET OUT OF THIS SUIT AND BACK TO BASEBALL AS FAST AS I CAN! THIS STUFF ABOUT ESPRIT D'CORPS AND SEMPER FIDELIS IS FOR THE BIRDS ... AND YOU KNOW IT!
ROGER... YOU CAN'T SAY THAT! YOU KNOW WHAT THE MARINE CORPS MEANS TO ME!

WELL, IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME BUT TROUBLE! I ONLY WANT TO BE A BALLPLAY—
AIR RAID! DUCK! ROGER!

THERE'S A FIRE NEAR THE QUARTER-MASTER'S TENT! LET'S GO BEFORE IT SPREADS!

THAT'S IT, GUYS! KEEP AT IT AND WE CAN LICK IT! DON'T LET IT GET TO THE TENT!

GOOD WORK, MEN! WE'VE GOT IT LICKED! YOU SEE, ROGER, IT... ROGER! HEY, DID ANYONE SEE...OH, THERE HE IS!

HEY, WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING THIS FIRE? DO YOU THINK YOU'RE A PRIVILEGED CHARACTER OR SOMETHING?
WHY ALL THE EXCITEMENT OVER A QUARTERMASTER TENT? THERE'S NOTHING IN THERE BUT A BUNCH OF UNIFORMS! AND IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA RISK BURNING MY PITCHING ARM FOR *THEM*, YOU'RE NUTS!

A BUNCH OF UNIFORMS, EH? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THOSE ARE *MARINE CORPS* UNIFORMS— AND FURTHERMORE, YOU'RE WEARING ONE AND SO AM I... AND MINE HAS *SIX STRIPES* ON IT! WHEN *I* GIVE AN ORDER, I WANT IT OBEYED!
BUT, POP..

DON'T CALL ME "POP", YOU POOR EXCUSE FOR A MAN! GO PLAY WITH YOUR BATS AND BALLS AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

ROGER WAS SORRY HIS FATHER TOOK IT THAT WAY, BUT AFTER ALL, HE FELT HE WAS RIGHT. WHAT WAS THE SENSE OF RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR THE SORT OF CHAUVINISM THAT HAD PASSED AWAY WITH NAPOLEON. STILL, HE FELT HE SHOULD APOLOGIZE. BUT HE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE, FOR...

AND THEN IT CAME...THE BIG COMMIE PUSH . A SEA OF MEN, GUNS AND TANKS MOVING IN ON THEM. .
THOUSANDS OF THEM! THEY'LL TRAMPLE US FLAT!

ROGER WAS SCARED! IT SEEMED NOTHING WOULD STOP THIS MASS OF HUMANITY FROM SWEEPING OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE. SUDDENLY—
DIE, YANKEE DOG!

THEN...
THANKS, BUDDY!
THANKS NOTHING! GET HIM!

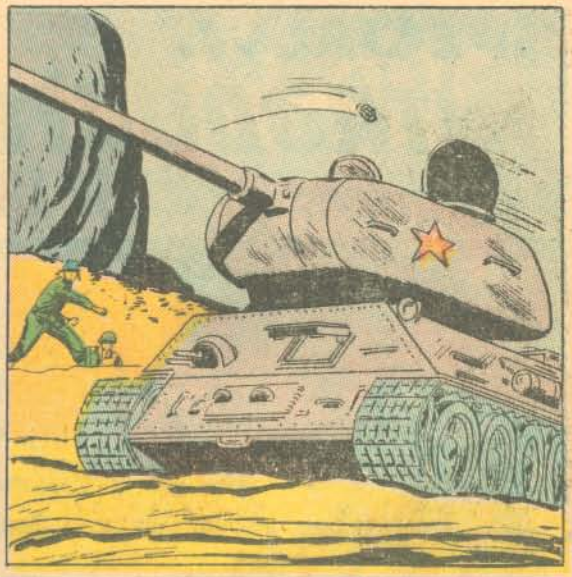
GOT 'IM!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

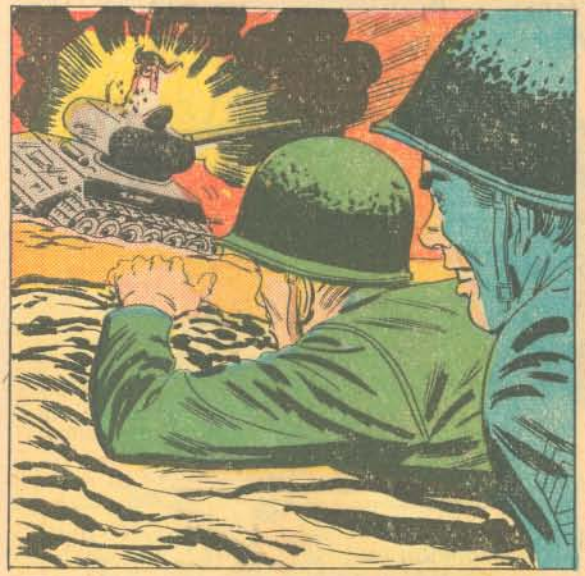
THAT'S THE SPIRIT...SPIRIT... MARINE CORPS SPIRIT! THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WATCHING! THAT'S WHAT SAVED MY LIFE!
HEY, YOU GUYS, I WANT A VOLUNTEER!

I WANT SOMEBODY TO COVER ME, WHILE I TRY TO GET THAT TANK UP THERE, WITH A GRENADE!
I'LL GO, POP!

YOU? I WOULDN'T TAKE YOU IF...
I SAID I'LL GO! AND WHAT'S MORE, I'LL PITCH THAT GRENADE! YOU'RE THE MARKSMAN IN THE FAMILY AND MAYBE YOU GOT THE STRIPES...BUT I'M STILL THE PITCHER!

A GRENADE'LL NEVER TAKE THAT THING ON IT'S ARMOR. BUT HE'S GOT HIS LID OFF, CAN YOU DROP ONE IN THERE?
YOU'RE TALKING TO THE BEST CONTROL ARTIST IN THE I.C.A.A., POP! WATCH!





THEY'RE RETREATING, POP! THEY'RE RUNNING!
LOOK AT 'EM GO!

THAT CALLS FOR A TOAST! TO THE BEST PITCHER WEST OF THE POLO GROUNDS!
AND TO THE BEST OLD MAN A GUY EVER HAD... WEST OF ANYWHERE!

... AND TO THE MARINE CORPS AND THE SPIRIT OF SEMPER FI!

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